

Indiana House of Representatives

News and Information

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

March 28, 2005

CRAWFORD LEGISLATION ON STATE-ISSUED ID PASSED

INDIANAPOLIS -- Senate Bill 242, legislation co-sponsored by State Rep. Bill Crawford (D-Indianapolis) dealing with the issuance and reinstatement of driver's licenses and state ID cards, passed out of the House today by a vote of 98 - 0.

This bill permits a court to waive a driver's license reinstatement fee if the person who owes the fee is indigent or shows proof of future financial responsibility and the waiver is appropriate in light of the person's character and the nature and circumstances surrounding the suspension of the license.

"The driver's license reinstatement fee represents such a burden to some people that they cannot afford to pay it and they have effectively lost their license," said Crawford. "We should not punish these people more because they cannot afford to pay."

Several amendments were later added to address concerns House Democrats had about another piece of legislation, the voter ID bill. Senate Bill 242 will require that all full-service license branches be open on the day before and the day of elections to issue driver's licenses and state ID cards. The license branches also will be open extra hours on the Saturday following elections, so those who voted on provisional ballots have the opportunity to obtain proper ID.

An additional seven days for the certification of election results and the filing of recounts or contests is also provided in the bill.

"I still feel that requiring a state or federal issued photo ID in order to vote is akin to the poll tax," said Crawford. "Hopefully the amendments to Senate Bill 242 will go some length in protecting the people's right to vote."

Crawford also co-sponsored Senate Bill 609, legislation that will change the distribution of local option tax dollars within a county. County Adjusted Gross Income Tax (CAGIT) revenue will be dispersed to civil taxing units and school corporations. County Option Income Tax (COIT) revenue will be given to civil taxing units according to a new formula. Senate Bill 609 passed the House with a vote of 97 - 0.

Furthermore, the bill requires that the State Department of Revenue make adjustments to increase a county's certified distribution of CAGIT, COIT and other tax revenues when a county increases the tax rate.

Both Senate Bill 242 and Senate Bill 609 return to the Senate for concurrence with changes made in the House.